

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 16 of 1896.

REPORT  
ON  
NATIVE PAPERS  
FOR THE

Week ending the 18th April 1896.

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## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Banganivasi" ...	Calcutta	5,000	12th April, 1896.	
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	20,000	11th ditto.	
3	"Banijya Darpan" ...	Ditto	.....	10th ditto.	
4	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto	800	14th ditto.	
5	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	About 4,000	10th ditto.	
6	"Kumari Patrika" ...	Ditto	.....		
7	"Mihir-o-Sndhakar" ...	Ditto	2,500	11th ditto.	
8	"Navayuga" ...	Ditto	.....	11th ditto.	
9	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto	About 500	8th ditto.	
10	"Samay" ...	Ditto	3,000	12th ditto.	
11	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	3,000	11th ditto.	
12	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	800	13th ditto.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika"	Ditto	350		
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika."	Ditto	1,000	9th, 14th and 15th April, 1896.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto	1,250	13th, 14th and 16th April 1896.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	200		
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	Read by 3,000	10th, 11th and 14th April 1896.	
<b>HINDI.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	2,000	9th April 1896.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	10,000	13th ditto.	
3	"Uchit Vakta" ...	Ditto	.....		
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Dainik Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	5,000		
<b>PESSIAN.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hubbul Mateen" ...	Calcutta	.....	1st April, 1896.	
<b>URDU.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussultanat and Urdu Guide."	Ditto	310	9th April, 1896.	
2	"General and Gauhariasfi"	Ditto	330	8th ditto.	
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<b>BURDWAN DIVISION.</b>					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura	450		
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria	700		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan	About 250	7th April, 1896.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura	550		
3	"Darsak" ...	Ditto	.....		
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	1,145	10th ditto.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	<b>BENGALI.</b>				
	<b>Monthly.</b>	<b>PRESIDENCY DIVISION.</b>			
1	"Ghosak" ...	Khulna ...	350		
	<b>Weekly.</b>				
1	" Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad ...	826	8th April, 1896.	
2	" Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore ...	200		
3	" Pratikar" ...	Ditto ...	603	10th ditto.	
	<b>URIA.</b>	<b>ORISSA DIVISION.</b>			
	<b>Monthly.</b>				
1	" Brahma" ...	Cuttack ...	160		
2	" Indradhanu" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
3	" Shikshabandhu" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
4	" Utkalprabha" ...	Mayurbunj ...	.....		
	<b>Weekly.</b>				
1	" Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	.....	
2	" Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	190	20th and 27th February, 1896.	
3	" Urya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	309	19th and 26th February, 1896.	
4	" Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	480	22nd and 29th February, 1896.	
	<b>HINDI.</b>				
	<b>Monthly.</b>	<b>PATNA DIVISION.</b>			
1	" Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	500		
	<b>Weekly.</b>				
1	" Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur ...	1,000		
	<b>URDU.</b>				
	<b>Weekly.</b>				
1	" Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500		
	<b>Gaya Punch" ...</b>	Gaya ...	400	6th April, 1896.	
	<b>BENGALI.</b>				
	<b>Weekly.</b>	<b>RAJSHAHI DIVISION.</b>			
1	" Bagura Darpan" ...	Bogra ...	.....		
2	" Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	195	8th April, 1896.	
3	" Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	180	9th ditto.	
	<b>HINDI.</b>				
	<b>Monthly.</b>				
1	" Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika." ...	Darjeeling ...	500		
	<b>BENGALI.</b>				
	<b>Fortnightly.</b>	<b>DACCA DIVISION.</b>			
1	" Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	244	11th April, 1896.	
	<b>Weekly.</b>				
1	" Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900	7th April 1896.	
2	" Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	2,400	12th ditto.	
3	" Saraswat Patra" ...	Do. ...	About 440	4th ditto.	
4	" Vikrampur" ...	Lauhajangha, Dacca ...	240		

Only six copies have been issued since the paper was revived in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue are said to have been circulated, but no subscribers have been registered.

This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.

It is said that 550 copies of the paper are printed each month. Out of this number 150 copies are distributed among the subscribers, and the rest sold to the public at three pies per copy.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
<b>ENGLISH AND BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500	6th and 13th April, 1896.	
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Tripura Prakash" ...	Comilla ...	700	1st fortnight Chaitra, 1302 B. S.	
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	120		
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi"	Sylhet ..	.....		
<b>ASSAM.</b>					

## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

**THE Hublul Mateen** of the 1st April says that the Sultan is weakening his claim upon his Egyptian provinces by not interfering in the Soudan expedition. If the expedition is sent either at Egypt's or at England's cost, the

**The Sultan and the Soudan** **expedition.** circumstance will strengthen England's foothold in Egypt, and the Sultan will have to hold over the evacuation question for some years more.

HUBLUL MATEEN,  
April 1st, 1896.

2. The **Bharat Mitra** of the 9th April understands from telegraphic intelligence that England has given her promise to England in Egypt. France to evacuate Egypt, but advises England to keep her occupation firm in Egypt, as it is clear that without Egypt England will have to face great difficulties in keeping possession of her Indian empire.

BHARAT MITRA,  
April 9th 1896.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

3. The **Hitavadi** of the 10th April learns from the **Bankura Darpan** that A Brahman sent away as a cooly. named Sarada Chakravarti, of village Niyasa, within Chhatna in the Bankura district, has been sent up as a cooly. His present address is

HITAVADI,  
April 10th, 1896.

"Line No. 10—Geirati Tea-garden, Barjuti Post-office, Darang, zillah Tejpur, Assam." The father of this unfortunate man is said to be the owner of 200 bighas of *lakhiraj* land. Will not the authorities enquire into the sad fate of this poor man?

4. A correspondent of the same paper says that Mr. Cox, District Superintendent of Police, Monghyr, severely reproved some constables for having *salaamed* Babu Sarat Chandra Mukharji, the First Munsif of Monghyr.

HITAVADI,

He told them that they should never *salaam* a native *Hakim*.

On the occasion of a parade, the District Superintendent called constables such names as "*bajrat, kamina, sala*." One of the constables protested against the use of such language. For this Mr. Cox imposed a fine of Rs. 15.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
April 11th, 1896.

5. The **Mihir-o-Sudhakar** of the 11th April publishes the following letter:—

Cooly-recruiting abuse.

Sheikh Abdul Barik, a boy of seventeen, is the son of one Sheikh Sajedar Rahman, an inhabitant of Dharan, a village under the jurisdiction of the Rayna thana of the Burdwan district. His father is a blind man unable to work, and he is the only support of the family. On the 25th October 1895 the boy set out for Calcutta in search of employment. He was not heard of since then until, some day in the month of Falgun (January-February), a letter from him reached the hands of his father. The boy writes from the Taloa tea-garden in Assam, and gives the following account of his mysterious disappearance:—From his native village the boy went to Ghusuri, a place near Howrah. He was coming to Calcutta, when, on the Hooghly Bridge, he met a gentleman who, having ascertained all about him, held out to him the prospects of a lucrative appointment, promising that he would find out for him a post of Rs. 15 a month with light work to do. The man took the boy to a cooly dépôt in Sealdah, when the latter discovering that he was in the hands of a wily cooly recruiter began to cry and entreated the man to release him. But his cries and lamentations proved unavailing. The man told him that he would be given a post of Rs. 15 a month, for which he was to sign a contract for five years. He was also assured that his pay would be increased to Rs. 20 a month at the end of three months. His name was changed into Bisu Kaivarta, and he was passed as a cooly and sent to Assam. When there, the boy found out that his pay was only Rs. 3 a month, which could hardly keep his body and soul together. The boy requests his father to bring his case to the notice of the Editor of the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar*.

The Editor comments upon the above as follows:—

It gives us great pain to see that the abuses of cooly-recruiting are going to invade the peaceful Musalman home. It is heart-rending to contemplate how the only support of a blind man is taken away from him, and he is left to misery and helplessness, pining away in grief. Musalmans do not come within

the purview of the Cooly Act, and so the wily recruiter changed a Musalman name into a Hindu one. We pray the Government to release the poor boy from his bondage in the Assam tea-garden and condignly punish the offending recruiter. The Manager of the Taloa tea-garden should himself release the boy from his bondage.

SANJIVANI,  
April 11th, 1896.

6. Referring to the case in which a number of juvenile mill hands have been charged by Mr. Macpherson, Manager of the Baranagore Jute Factory Company, Limited, with assault, the *Sanjivani* of the 11th April complains

The Police in the Baranagore Jute Factory. that the Police is arresting the boys on the charge of assault, depending for the identification upon Mr. Macpherson's men. The Police is subjecting these boys to great ill-treatment and insult. Will the Police authorities allow these boys to be ill-treated in this unlawful way before their guilt is proved ?

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

DACCA GAZETTE,  
April 6th, 1896.

7. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 6th April says that none could believe that a Deputy Magistrate under Sir Alexander Mackenzie could commit such oppressions as were committed upon the people of Madaripur in the Faridpur

The Deputy Magistrate of Madaripur. district. The *Hitavadi* newspaper published very serious charges against the Deputy Magistrate of Madaripur, but Government seems to have taken no steps to punish that officer. Does Government consider a transfer enough for him ? The writer, too, has heard charges brought against the Deputy Magistrate.

DACCA GAZETTE.

8. The same paper has the following :—

A chess-loving Magistrate. Gambling is a vice ; and the people placed under an officer who is addicted to this vice cannot be considered very fortunate. We have heard that Mr. Shirres, the present Magistrate of Dacca, is an expert chess player, and invites other good players to his house to play with him. No one will praise Mr. Shirres as a player, if he cannot show that his playing will not interfere with his discharge of the important duties imposed upon him as the wielder of the destinies of the people of Dacca. His addiction to chess will only bring misfortune on the people of Dacca.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
April 8th, 1896.

9. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 8th April says that the practice adopted by the newly created arrear collection department of the collectorate of hanging up, within some place in the collectorate buildings, lists of

Some Collectorate matters in the Murshidabad district. petty defaulters with the amounts respectively due from them, by way of notice to such defaulters, scarcely serves the purpose for which the lists are hung up. It is not every day that such defaulters can be expected to come to the collectorate ; and the list is hung up in a place where it cannot be expected to attract the attention of every casual passer-by. The best way of giving notice to defaulters is by sending each of them a post-card, the price of such post-card being recovered from the party.

The new procedure adopted in the Road Cess Office is proving far from convenient to the public. It will prove a source of great confusion and irregularity. The new procedure was probably devised by one who had no experience of the method of work in Bengal. This is clear from the draft of the new *chalan*. The new system will require additional clerks from time to time.

The ways of the Road Cess Office have indeed struck everybody with wonder. When the several instalments of the road cess payable by an estate are added up, they are found in very many cases to exceed the total annual cess fixed as payable by that estate. The strangest thing about these mistakes is that the total of the instalments never falls short of, but always exceeds, the amount of the annual cess fixed.

HITAVADI,  
April 10th, 1896.

The writer has heard that in Birbhum and some other districts revenue and cesses have been made payable by one and the same *chalan*. This must be very convenient to the public, and it is hoped that this system will be extended to all districts.

10. The *Hitavadi* of the 10th April writes as follows :—

The Madaripur enquiry. Maulvi Fazlal Karim has been transferred from Madaripur to Dacca. The Commissioner of the Dacca Division, it is said, is convinced by a private enquiry that all our

charges against the Maulvi are false. We knew beforehand that not a single hair on the Maulvi's head would be touched so long as there was Mr. Luttman-Johnson to back him. But we are not the men to easily give up our point. We will do our utmost, and if we fail after that, we shall have nothing to reproach ourselves with. It is from considerations like these that we are acting in this matter. We have received the following letter from Dacca:—

DACC~~A~~,  
The 4th April 1896.

“To  
The Editor of the *Hitavadi*.

SIR,

It appears from the remarks in your paper of the 3rd instant that you still expect an inquiry into the very grave charges brought by you against the Sub-divisional Officer of Madaripur, Maulvi Fazlal Karim. To set you at rest, as also your numerous readers anxiously waiting for the result of the enquiry which you, in a previous issue of your paper, informed the public would take place, I may tell you that the matter has been disposed of on the very eve of his departure by the ‘quaintly caustic’ Commissioner of the Dacca Division, Mr. Luttman-Johnson, on the report of the Magistrate of Faridpur, Mr. French.

Mr. Luttman-Johnson at first intended to go away on the 26th March last, but very kindly he put off his departure for a day or so to see that injustice may not be done by his successor, Mr. L. Hare, who might not have an opportunity of tasting the ‘36 dishes’ prepared by the Maulvi on the occasion of the late Commissioner’s visit to Madaripur. On that day, the 26th March last, Mr. French (who, by-the-bye, you may not know has recently been sent to Faridpur from Assam, and is quite a boy) submitted an urgent report to the Commissioner, stating that he had asked you to give the name of the man who inspired the articles against the Maulvi in your paper, but that you had declined to give it, except on the condition of its being treated as confidential. The Magistrate had also written to a gentleman of Madaripur, whom the Maulvi accused of having written the article in your paper, but he referred Mr. French to you for the name of the writer. Of the charges, Mr. French inquired into four, and did not consider it worth while to go to the Bazar to inquire into the rest, as that would wound the feelings of a valued and trusted servant like the Maulvi. These four also did not stand inquiry. He had heard from a ‘respectable party,’ who as your Madaripur readers know full well cannot be any one else than the Assistant Surgeon of the place, that the Maulvi has not got any Brahmini wife in his house. Regarding the Muhammadan woman’s case, he did not find any such record there as mentioned by you; as regards the purchase of timber from the sub-jail, he did not find any such sale since 1893 in the jail books. The chief charges failing, the Magistrate exonerates the Maulvi of all the charges, and finishes the report with the peroration that if the Maulvi had been as represented in the press and not universally popular, he would not have been appointed Chairman of the Local Board there!

The Maulvi is to be congratulated on the opportune transfer of Mr. Herald. Comments on Mr. French’s report are unnecessary.

VERITAS.”

There is no reason for despondency or despair even if what our correspondent says is true—even if an enquiry has been held in the unsatisfactory manner he describes. We publicly charged the Maulvi with certain offences, and if our charges are false, we have deserved the disapprobation of man and God. If we have said what is false, let the authorities prosecute us: and if we are found guilty, we shall be glad to pay damages, to make a proper apology, to take any punishment which may be thought fit for us, and to retract our charges. If the authorities think that we shall cease to press our charges against the Maulvi, now that he is transferred from Madaripur, they will soon find themselves mistaken.

Through the efforts of a certain man, an impression has gained ground in the minds of many that our charges against the Maulvi were based upon information supplied by some enemy of that officer, or upon information furnished by a single individual. As a matter of fact, we did not write a single word for which we had not satisfactory evidence. We will not hesitate to produce witnesses who will testify to the purchase by the Maulvi of timber of the jail building, as well as to other matters. In publishing our charges against the Maulvi, we did not rely upon any particular person or any particular party. In addition to our former charges, we spoke last time of the escape of a prisoner. The jail warden and his assistant have been prosecuted for that. This time we publish the following letter from a special correspondent:—

It would be impossible to convey by means of this short letter an adequate idea of the service you have done to the people of Madaripur by publishing only a small part of the proceedings of the notorious Deputy Magistrate of Madaripur, Maulvi Fazlal Karim, in your renowned journal, the *Hitavadi*. But for your efforts, the attention of the higher authorities would never have been directed to his proceedings. But let no one suppose that what you have published is the whole of what can be urged against that officer. It is, as a matter of fact, only a small fraction of that officer's doings. Of late, the proceedings of the Maulvi have begun to harm Europeans, too, instead of harming natives only. On the 27th or 29th March, the Deputy Magistrate wished to go to Kartikpur; but he would go in his own boat tugged by the local steamer. With that view he sent for the sarang of the steamer which was to leave Madaripur for Kartikpur, and told him that he must tug his green boat. The sarang said that he could not tug any boat without the Agent's permission, and added that even the Sub-Agent at Madaripur was not authorised to issue permission to that effect. But the justice incarnate and the all-powerful Deputy Magistrate of Madaripur was not the man to let the sarang go without making him tug his boat by force and without payment. The poor *sarang* too would not agree, for the sake of his service, to tug the Deputy Magistrate's boat. Under these circumstances, the Maulvi first tried to reason with the *sarang*, and finding that ineffectual threatened him, saying that, being a *hakim*, he could send him to *hajat* or jail, and also abused him foully. In this way the steamer was delayed for two hours. The inconvenience of the passengers on account of this delay may well be imagined. If you wish for further particulars of this affair, you will have them on application to Messrs Kilburne and Company, Agents of the India General Steam Navigation Company. We are well aware that the *sarang* reported the matter to the Agent, who has reported it to Messrs. Kilburne and Company. The Maulvi has caught a tartar this time, and we wait to see what that European firm does in the matter. Another fact requires to be mentioned here. The local steamer, when starting, sounds the whistle to warn passengers as well as small boats. But whistling, it is said, has the effect of confusing the Deputy Magistrate's brains, and if the steamer ever sounds the whistle, he summonses the *sarang*, reproves him, and threatens him with imprisonment.

We receive letters from time to time containing charges like these against the Maulvi, and we cannot disbelieve them on the strength of the careless report of the Magistrate. We therefore purpose to bring some serious charges against the Maulvi on affidavit.

#### 11. The same paper writes:—

An ill tempered District Judge in Bihar.

HITAVADI,  
April 10th, 1896.

A high judicial officer should be possessed of a perfect temper. But many judicial officers in this country, it is to be regretted, do not possess this qualification. Here is an instance in point. An English District Judge in Bihar, whose name, for special reasons, we forbear to mention, told his orderly to get him two rupees. The orderly, who did not correctly hear the Judge, thought that it was milk he wanted. He accordingly placed a glass of milk on the Judge's table. At this the officer flew into a passion and foully abused the orderly. The orderly, though poor, was a man of respectable birth. Unable to bear this abuse, he told the Judge not to abuse him in that way. Seeing that it was not safe to abuse the man, the Judge then held his peace for the time, but informed the orderly through his Nazir the next day not to appear before him any longer on pain of severe punishment.

SANJIVANI,  
April 11th, 1896.

12. The *Sanjivani* of the 11th April observes that the people of Dinajpur are glad to see Mr. Maguire transferred to Howrah.  
Mr. Maguire, the Magistrate. Mr. Maguire made matters pretty hot in Dinajpur.

The Court *amla* were in mortal dread of him, and he fined them right and left on the flimsiest of grounds. He was in the habit of dictating to the Deputy Magistrates under him the lines they should follow in trying cases, and they were often compelled to go against their conscience. It is said that he once recommended that Babu P. N. Rai, a Deputy Magistrate with first class powers, should have his powers curtailed, and should be transferred to an out-of-the-way place because he could not show a large percentage of convictions. The Lieutenant-Governor should make an inquiry and ascertain whether this charge against Mr. Maguire is true or not.

13. The same paper complains that Mr. Lister, who is now the Joint-Magistrate of Serampur, but was some time ago in charge of the Road and Public Works Cess

High-handedness of Mr. Lister. Department in the Muzaffarpur district, ill-treated Rai Barhabanta Bahadur, a respectable inhabitant of that district, on the ground of non-payment of road cess amounting to Rs. 22. On the 10th March last, Rai Barhabanta applied to Mr. Hare, the then District Magistrate, for permission to prosecute Mr. Lister. On the 24th March Mr. Hare left Muzaffarpur for Dacca, where he has become the Commissioner, but during these fourteen days he did not pass any order on Rai Bahabanta's petition! It is to be hoped, however, that Sir Alexander Mackenzie will do justice in this case, and thereby prevent European officials of the type of Mr. Lister from ill-treating natives.

SANJIVANI.

(d) — *Education.*

14. In the course of his admirable speech at the City College, says the *Sahachar* of the 8th April, Sir Alexander Mackenzie read the pupils of that institution an excellent speech at the City College.

SAHACHAR,  
April 8th, 1896.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie's lesson on reverence towards parents and on *guru-bhakti* generally. His Honour said that Indian students become insolent and irreverent by reading those English authors who preach the doctrine of individual liberty. This is true: but there are other influences at work which make Indian students irreverent. They receive no moral training, and their teachers do not sympathise with them. It was owing to want of moral education that Cambridge graduates in the past were obnoxious not only to their professors, but to all Cambridge people. That Indian students in past times were quite unlike their Western fellows in *guru-bhakti* was simply because their education appealed as much to their heart as to their mind, and sought the spiritual advancement of its recipients more than their worldly welfare. The story of Upamanyu in the *Mahabharata* shows the height which *gurubhakti* reached in India. The end and aim of English education are very different. It seeks worldly welfare above every other, and incites men to find happiness in self-importance and individual liberty. This is why in Europe the joint-family is unknown: men live only with their wives, and even children leave their parents' homes as soon as they are able to do so. In India, the same education must produce the same effects. Sir Alexander Mackenzie would use the "rod" as an effective corrective, but the rod is only for the little child, not for the child, 'of larger growth,' who is the worst offender on the score of irreverence. According to the sage Chanakya, there should be no hard treatment of the boy who has passed his sixteenth year. "Such a boy should be treated by his parents as a friend." For such boys the only corrective lies in moral and religious education. Let then English education teach Indian students independence, but let the country's own spiritual education at the same time teach them humility.

There is one thing more to which the writer, while on this subject, must draw the Lieutenant-Governor's attention, namely, the absolute want of sympathy now-a-days between the European Professors and their native pupils. The writer knows one or two pupils of the late David Hare, who still survive and who shed tears at the mere mention of their beloved teacher's name; and everybody knows of the sympathy which existed in later times between Mr. Sutcliffe and his pupils. But alas those days are gone! A sad change has come over the relations between European Professors and their native pupils; the

former seldom knowing the latter even by face. Who can say that Mr. Griffiths was perfectly faultless in the late University affair? If Sir Alexander Mackenzie can establish better feelings between the teachers and the taught, he will do a real service to the country.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
April 11th, 1896.

15. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 11th April has the following:—

On the 23rd June 1893, Dr. Martin, Officiating Musalmans in the Education Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, wrote to Department. Government that "provided candidates with the necessary qualifications are obtainable, orders should be issued to the Education Department and to District and Municipal Boards to appoint only Muhammadan candidates to Sub-Inspectorships, till such time as the Muhammadan element in the inspecting staff of each district is represented somewhat in proportion of its Muhammadan element." In pursuance of this letter, Government issued, on the 26th June of the next year, a circular to all Inspectors of Schools, requesting them "to take opportunities, as occasion may arise, of recommending to District Boards the appointment of qualified Muhammadans as Sub-Inspectors of Schools, especially when the population of the district is largely Muhammadan." Let us see how far this circular is being given effect to.

We understand from Dr. Martin's letter, partly quoted above, that of thirty-one Sub-Inspectors of Schools in the Burdwan Division, only one is a Musalman. In the Presidency Division there are thirty-two Sub-Inspectors of Schools, but none of them is Musalman. In the Rajshahi Division there is only one Musalman Sub-Inspector among twenty-seven, and in Chittagong one among ten. In the Dacca Division none of the twenty-one Sub-Inspectors of Schools is a Musalman. It is thus quite clear that of one hundred and twenty-one Sub-Inspectors of Schools in Bengal only three are Musalman. It is a fact, however, that in all these Divisions, taken together, the Musalmans outnumber the Hindus, and in the Rajshahi, Dacca and Chittagong Divisions there are twice as many Musalmans as Hindus. In the Lower Primary schools Muhammadans boys far outnumber Hindu boys, and the income of the District Boards is derived from tax-payers, the majority of whom are Musalmans. Is it then just and proper that Hindus should be employed at the cost of Musalmans and allowed to fatten on the blood which has been sucked out of the latter? It is a stock argument with Hindu newspapers that qualified Musalmans are not available for the public service. There is absolutely no foundation for this statement. There is in these days no dearth of qualified Musalmans as there was a few years ago. We have the names of about one hundred well-educated and qualified Musalmans registered in our office.

That the exclusion of Musalmans from the Education Department is not due to the absence of qualified candidates, but to the jealousy of the Hindus, is quite clear from the following letter of a correspondent:—

The Khulna District Board has abolished a few posts of inspecting *pandits* and created two Sub-Inspectorships in their place. In the Khulna district the Musalmans outnumber the Hindus, but all the Sub-Inspectors of Schools there are Hindus. It was, therefore, expected that at least to these two posts Musalmans would be appointed, especially as there were several Musalman graduates among the applicants for these posts. Maulvi Abdul Karim, Assistant Inspector of Muhammadan Education, drew the attention of the Khulna District Board to the desirability of appointing a few Musalman Sub-Inspectors in a district like Khulna, where Musalmans outnumber Hindus. A Committee of the Board thereupon resolved that a Musalman candidate should be appointed to one of these two posts. But this resolution was outvoted at a meeting of the Board, and Hindus were appointed to both the posts. It turns out that both the successful candidates are related to some of the Hindu members of the District Board.

It is quite clear from the above how the District Boards, in which Hindu members generally preponderate, are influenced by self-interest and jealousy of the Musalmans in making appointments. They do not hesitate to trample upon justice and fair play, and they have in this case gone so far as to disregard an order of the Government. That Local Self-Government has proved injurious to Musalman interests is also borne out by the action of the Khulna District Board.

The Divisional Commissioner and the Local Government have the power to override the decision of a District Board, and it is to be hoped that they will interfere in this case of palpable injustice. Let the Khulna Muslims memorialise the Government. Let them not sit idle while the Hindus are trying their best to monopolise the loaves and fishes of the public service, and are by dint of political agitation securing new rights and privileges. Let the Musalmans show that they, too, can defend their rights. It is necessary that the Government should take steps to give effect to its circular, and should not allow it to be trampled upon by the District Boards.

16. The same paper draws the attention of the Principal of the Calcutta Madrassa to the dilatoriness of the head clerk in paying scholarships to the students. That gentleman pays the scholarships for a particular month—

Payment of scholarships in the Calcutta Madrassa. about the last week of the following month. This acts as a hardship on the students, most of whom have to depend upon their scholarships for their education.

17. The same paper observes that under proper management the Society for the Higher Training of Young Men is calculated to foster a brotherly feeling among students of all classes and creeds. It will serve as a meeting ground for students, and their frequent intercourse will naturally lead them to sympathise with one another in weal as well as in woe. The public, and the student community in particular, are indebted to Mr. Wilson for what he has done, and is still doing, for the advancement of the Society. A native gentleman could not be expected to work so hard. It is to be hoped that the Government and the native millionaires will liberally contribute to the Society's fund. Musalman students should enlist themselves in large numbers as its members.

18. The *Sanjivani* of the 11th April takes exception to the following passages in the notification of the Director of Public Instruction on the training of teachers for English secondary schools:—"The orders of Government are that in the case of all new appointments, whether in schools under public management, or in aided or unaided schools, preference shall in future be given to the holders of teacher-ship certificates. Managers of aided schools who neglect to comply with this rule will render themselves liable to the loss of their grant; and similarly Managers of unaided schools to the deprivation of the right of competing for Government scholarship." The writer observes that the Government has given the people cause for alarm by attempting to interfere in the management of private schools. If teacher-ship certificates are annually granted to 150 candidates, the highest number imaginable, they will be just sufficient to fill up vacant places in the Government schools. Where will private schools then find certificate-holders for their vacant posts? It will go hard with these private schools if the Education Department, with an autocrat like Sir Alfred Croft at its head, be allowed to interfere in their management. It is to be expected that the Managers and Proprietors of private schools will do their utmost to maintain their independence.

19. The same paper observes that the Committee which was appointed by the Syndicate of the Calcutta University to inquire into the charge made against some University peons that they had beaten Mr. Anandamohan Bose's son on the occasion of the last Entrance Examination has submitted its report. The Committee says that the student in question did not violate any rule of the University by entering the Examination Hall between 1 and 2 P.M., and that he committed no fault, and the University peons were not justified in handling him roughly. The report was taken up for consideration at the last meeting of the Syndicate, when Sir Alfred Croft observed that now that peace was restored, there was no need of going into the question again. The majority of the Members of the Syndicate, however, did not agree with the President. At last Mr. Apjohn's proposal that the consideration of the report be postponed, and that it be taken up for consideration by the new Syndicate, was passed by a majority of one vote. The new Syndicate is full of Europeans, and it is most likely that it will reject the report, and the wrong done to a native youth will remain unredressed. Europeans do not hesitate to trample upon justice in order to maintain their *zil*.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
April 11th, 1896.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR.

SANJIVANI,  
April 11th, 1896.

SANJIVANI.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
April 14th, 1896.

20. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 14th April recommends Babu Isan Chandra Ghose, M.A., Deputy Inspector of Schools, for appointment to the headmastership of the Hare School. Babu Isan Chandra is a distinguished graduate of the Calcutta University, and has considerable proficiency in English. He has also given proof of his literary acquirements in the compilation of official reports. Such a man should be employed in purely educational rather than on inspection business. It is to be hoped that Sir Alfred Croft, who never fails to recognise the merit of a subordinate officer, will appoint Babu Isan Chandra to the headmastership of the Hare School.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA.

21. Referring to the Director of Public Instruction's notification on the training of teachers for the secondary schools, the same paper observes that such training is not likely to be of any great practical benefit to the public.

The Government should not expect to get able and qualified men at Rs. 100 a month for the purpose of training teachers for the secondary schools. Such men as are available at this low pay should not be expected to be very well versed in the science of education or in the art of academical discipline—subjects which, it is proposed, should be carefully taught to the students of the training schools. Training of teachers for the secondary schools was in vogue before the University Examinations came into force. Since then no need for such training of teachers has been felt. Why, then, this going back to the old order of things? Sir Alexander Mackenzie seems to have a liking for a special training of teachers, and he will have even B.A.'s. and M.A.'s. taught in the training schools before they are declared qualified to teach. The Lieutenant-Governor seems to be a great disciplinarian, but is it not too late in these days to teach discipline in school? By-the-way, if the trainers of teachers get only Rs. 100 a month, what will the teachers get?

(e) — Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

CHARU MIHIR,  
April 7th, 1896.

22. The *Charu Mihir* of the 7th April, says that the District and Local Boards, have hitherto been indifferent to the sufferings of the mafassal. the mafassal people arising from water scarcity, but hopes that the Bengal Government's recent circular will rouse them to a sense of their duty. The Lieutenant Governor has ordered a speedy removal of the scarcity by the sinking of wells and other suitable means, and has entrusted the work to the District Boards. The Boards, it is to be hoped, will not treat the matter with its usual lukewarmness, but will at once set about devising means for removing the sufferings of the people. There is no time to be lost in discussion, and the Chairmen of the District Boards should at once order the Local Boards to sink wells, it being too late to excavate tanks in every village in which there is scarcity of water. The District Magistrates should at the same time ask all Sub-divisional Magistrates to prepare lists of the places within their respective jurisdictions where water scarcity prevails, and cause copies of those lists to be sent to the District and Local Boards concerned. Similar lists should also be prepared by those members of the District and Local Boards who happen to live in the interior of the districts. The teachers in the mafassal schools, postal clerks, police officers, zamindars' men, overseers and sub-overseers in the employ of the Boards, and last of all the villagers themselves, may also be requested to prepare such lists and send copies thereof to the District and Local Boards. Government is willing to advance loans under the Act of 1883 for the excavation of tanks and the sinking of wells. But such advances cannot be wanted by the District Boards, which are, as a rule, bodies having sufficient funds at their disposal, and the more important among them ought to spend, not five thousand rupees as the Lieutenant-Governor has suggested, but not a cowrie less than ten thousand rupees every year on water-supply. What is an expenditure of even ten thousand rupees for a large and extensive district like Mymensingh? The consequences of water scarcity are felt in more ways than one. The other day a village in Sherpur was burnt down without the residents getting one jarful of water to extinguish the fire. And the epidemics which break out every year for want of pure drinking water will be soon heard of this year also.

Government's circular to the Divisional Commissioners, it is feared, cannot be fully given effect to without altering the existing law under which not even ten rupees can be spent on water-supply without the Commissioner's sanction.

23. Correspondents of the same paper write as follows from the Mymensingh district:—

Complaints of water scarcity, &c.,

(1) Severe water scarcity prevails in villages

Narandia, Daulatpur and Nagarbari in the Jamalpur

sub-division. People have to bring water from a distance of a mile. The Local Board, it is said, has ordered the digging of a well in Nagarbari bazar at a cost of sixty rupees; but though the month of *Chaitra* is drawing to a close, the work has not yet been taken in hand. Fires are also breaking out. The villages Jabrajan and Posuagram have been reduced to ashes, and two men and two cows have been burnt to death.

(2) Recently two deaths from cholera took place in Jamalpur town. One of the patients was removed to the cholera shed, where he died without treatment and without having any one to nurse him. It is a very objectionable practice of the municipality to remove sick persons to the hospital or the cholera shed in the cart in which dead bodies are removed.

(3) Severe water scarcity prevails in villages Habirbari, Kachina, Paragaon, Askamedila, Rangchapaya, Bharaduba, Baherpathar, Bandhertek, Sohal, Bali-juri, Mukhi, Kandi, Golabari, Kajapagla, Dawadari, Salap Chhapila, Deulpara, Makhaldubail, Chhota Barai, Paithal and Goalbar within the jurisdiction of the Gafargaon thana, and cholera has broken out in villages Lamkain, Golabari, Naoka, Gobri, Dubail, Barbarai, Gaespur, Paithal, Urati, Dhamlai, Sonab, Kaoraid and Beldia.

(4) There is water scarcity in Atghoria in the Kishoreganj sub-division. The Boards are perfectly indifferent to the sufferings of the people.

(5) There is no tank in villages Biramdi, Faslandi, Birhati and Ghatkandi, within the jurisdiction of the Gopalpur thana in the Tangail sub-division, their supply of drinking water being obtained from a *beel* in village Chhabbisa, about half a mile away. Owing to poor rainfall this year, the *beel* contains only a little dirty water. The people of the above villages are falling sick by drinking this water.

24. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 7th April learns from a correspondent

Pound oppression in Burdwan. that a calf just set free from a pound under the Birhuta outpost in the Burdwan district drank deep in the Banka river and died immediately after. The writer attributes this death to apoplexy. The pound-keepers do not properly feed cattle, and do not give them good water to drink. The District Board should make an inquiry into the management of the pounds in the Burdwan district.

25. A correspondent of the same paper complains of scarcity of water

Scarcity of water in Burdwan. in the Burdwan district. Scarcity of water is very great in about ten or twelve villages under the Khandaghosh thana in the Burdwan district. All reservoirs of water have dried up, and the little water that is still available is muddy and poisonous, the drinking of which is causing cholera. In Sankarpur, one of these villages, cholera of a serious type has broken out, and is carrying away hundreds of victims. The district authorities should take immediate steps to make a provision for supply of water in these villages.

26. The *Sahachar* of the 8th April writes as follows:—

Self-Government worthies. We have been glad to see the successful working of the Local Self-Government bodies in Bengal; and Government, too, has expressed its satisfaction at the happy result. A municipality here and a District Board there may occasionally go astray and incur the displeasure of a District Magistrate or a Divisional Commissioner, but there is no difference of opinion as to the manner in which these local bodies have, as a rule, acquitted themselves. Government should suitably recognise the services of men who have ungrudgingly laboured to bring Local Self-Government to such a successful issue in these provinces. The most prominent names in this connection are those of Babu Manilal Bannerji, Vice-Chairman of the 24-Parganas District Board; Babu Dwarkanath Datta, Vice-Chairman of the Backergunge District Board; Khaje Muhammad Asgar, Vice-Chairman of the Dacca District Board; Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Bahadur,

CHARU MIHIR,  
April 11th, 1896.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
April 7th, 1896.

SAHACHAR,  
April 8th, 1896.

Vice-Chairman of the Hooghly District Board; Babu Priyanath Bannerji, Vice-Chairman of the Jalpaiguri District Board; Rai Kailas Chandra Das Bahadur, Vice-Chairman of the Chittagong District Board; and Babu Kartik Chandra Mitra, Vice-Chairman of the Midnapore District Board. The services of the present Chairmen of the Cossipore, Alipore, Chittagong, Serampore, Rampur-Boalia, Baranagore, Bihar, and Balasore Municipalities also deserve recognition at the hands of Government. It is hoped that Government will confer suitable titles on these public-spirited gentlemen, and thereby honour them as well as itself.

**SAHACHAR,**  
April 8th, 1896.

27. The same paper says that the scorching heat has brought about a severe outbreak of cholera in Calcutta with a heavy death-rate. The Municipal authorities are publishing daily returns of mortality, in order to allay the panic, and have adopted various steps to check the spread of the disease, but without effect. The Health Officer should personally visit the sweetmeat shops in the native quarters, and especially the shops in Sealdah and Bowbazar Street. The public have no confidence in the Food Inspectors.

An enforcement of the provision in the municipal law requiring every medical practitioner to give notice to the municipality of every cholera case which comes to his knowledge is calculated to do more harm than good, as no busy practitioner will, in view of this responsibility, easily consent to take up a cholera case. The municipality should pay particular attention to the cleaning of drains.

**HITAVADI,**  
April 10th, 1896.

28. The *Hitavadi* of the 10th April says that the Lieutenant-Governor has earned the gratitude of all Bengalis by the sympathy he showed with the people in his reply to the interpellations on the subject of water scarcity. His Honour's statement, that no effort will be spared to relieve this scarcity, inspires hope in the mind.

**HITAVADI.**

29. The same paper publishes a letter from a correspondent, complaining of the unsatisfactory condition of the cattle-pounds division of the Nadia district. in the Kushtia sub-division of the Nadia district. No stock of fodder is kept in the pounds, nor are the impounded cattle led out to graze. The pound at Kushtia has no roof, and the impounded cattle remain completely exposed to the sun. A bribe of half an anna is also said to be paid for every cattle that is brought to the pounds. The authorities are requested to attend to the matter.

**PRATIKAR,**  
April 10th, 1896.

30. The same paper says that the Government of India insists upon the District Boards and improvement of the breed of horses and mules. District Boards in Bengal attending to the improvement of the breed of horses, asses and mules. The Bengal Government has therefore introduced a Bill on the subject. The funds at the disposal of the District Boards are notoriously inadequate to the various calls upon it, and any expenditure by the District Boards on the improvement of the breed of horses and asses must be considered as waste of money at a time when they find themselves unable, for want of funds, to prevent deaths from scarcity of food and water.

31. Water scarcity, observes the *Pratikar* of the 10th April, is most widespread this year in the mufassal; and great will be the sufferings of the people if immediate steps are not taken to alleviate it. The Road Cess Fund should be largely drawn upon for the purpose of digging and repairing tanks and wells. Subscriptions should also be raised from among the rich and well-to-do, and these, if supplemented by liberal grants from the District Boards, will do a great deal towards the removal of the water scarcity. The Government raises loans on a large scale almost every year for the purpose of making railways and defending the frontiers. If a fraction, however small, of the amount thus raised be advanced as loan to District Boards, and spent on improving the water-supply in the mufassal, the lives of millions of people may be easily saved. Sir Alexander Mackenzie is a benevolent ruler. He has already been moved by the sufferings of the people, and has enjoined all District Boards to annually spend at least five thousand rupees on the improvement of the water-supply. Five thousand rupees a year will, however, be too inadequate for the purpose, and more money should be spent at least this year.

32. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 11th April gives the evidence of Kailas

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
April 11th, 1896.

Oppression by the Midnapore Chandra Setua, the plaintiff in the case of Kailas Chandra Setua and others *versus* the Chairman of the Municipality.

Midnapore Municipality—No. 158—Civil—1895.

33. The *Saraswat Patra* of the 11th April has the following:—

SARASWAT PATRA,  
April 11th, 1896.

Water scarcity in the mufassal. Not the Government only, but the people also should try their best to remove the prevailing water scarcity in the mufassal. Let the rich for one moment, give up indulging in luxury and cast their eyes on the dry, desert-like villages of Bengal. Let the zamindars, for a moment, cease to exercise their power and enforce their prestige and supply the thirsty, toiling millions with water. Let the pleasure-seekers give up their *Barayaries*, *nuuches* and *jatras*, and let the money wasted on these frivolous enjoyments be spent on the improvement of water-supply. Let no one remain indifferent. The law of Nature is inexorable. And if you do not come to the rescue of your helpless neighbours now, the time will come when you yourselves will have to suffer like them, and with no expectation of help from others.

Our kind Lieutenant-Governor has been moved by the distress of the suffering millions of Bengal. Taking time by the forelock, he has issued a circular to the Commissioners of Divisions advising them to call upon District Boards to spend at least five thousand rupees a year on the improvement of water-supply. The Commissioners have also been advised to advance loans to the people for the same purpose, and to see that the District Boards dig wells and tanks without further delay in those places, at least, in which scarcity of water is most keenly felt. Sir Alexander Mackenzie has done what a kind and benevolent ruler should do. The time has now come when the District Boards should be up and doing, and do their part efficiently and well. There is no time now for the digging of tanks. Let the District Boards dig wells with as great speed as possible. Let them not remain idle and indifferent at a time when the lives of millions of people are at stake.

Now that the attention of the Government has been drawn to the distress of the people, it may be expected that two years hence there will be a fair improvement of the water-supply in the mufassal. If the people of Bengal had been so fortunate as to get a kind-hearted and conscientious ruler like Sir Alexander Mackenzie only five years ago, they would not have suffered so miserably from scarcity of water now. At a recent meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council, Mr. Cotton announced that the Government had sanctioned the expenditure of a lakh of rupees this year for the purpose of digging tanks and wells. We hope that effect will be soon given to Mr. Cotton's assurance.

Our kind-hearted Lieutenant-Governor has been to the thirsty millions of Bengal what the water-laden cloud is to the thirsty sky-lark—he has brought water to us. May he live long and prove a worthy representative of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress is the prayer of the thirsty millions of Bengal.

( f )—*Questions affecting the land.*

34. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 11th April is glad to understand that

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
April 11th, 1896.

A model zamindar.

Rai Yatindra Nath Chaudhuri, Zamindar of Taki in

zamindari from the payment of their dues for one year on account of the failure of crops. May the liberal-minded zamindar live long and prosper!

( g )—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

35. The *Tripura Prakash* for the 1st fortnight of Chaitra 1302 (B.S.)

The Assam-Bengal Railway.

brings the following to the notice of the Assam-Bengal Railway authorities:—

TRIPURA PRAKASH,  
First fortnight  
of Chaitra 1302 (B.S.)

- (1) In every station the Railway authorities should erect at least a thatched shed for the protection of passengers. Such sheds are urgently needed in the Comilla and Luksham stations.
- (2) Passengers should be allowed to get up into a train as soon as it reaches a station.

(3) An intermediate class carriage and a third class carriage for female passengers should be attached to every train. An additional second class carriage reserved for female passengers should be also attached to every train.

These arrangements can be made by the Railway authorities at a small cost.

CHARU MIHIR,  
April 7th, 1896.

36. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 7th April says that, though A bad road in the Mymensingh the Subarnakhali road, in the Mymensingh district, district. is one of the most important under the District Board, the portion of it from Muktagacha to Gabtali is sandy and full of ruts and holes, causing serious inconvenience to passengers, especially in this hot season. This portion ought to be metalled at once. Some time ago an estimate was sanctioned for the purpose, but nothing came of the scheme.

(h) — General.

SAHACHAR,  
April 8th, 1896.

37. The *Sahachar* of the 8th April says that, compared with the officers of the Subordinate Judicial and Executive Services, Pay and prospects of the Sub- the officers of the Subordinate Medical Service are ordinate Medical Service. very poorly paid, the minimum salary at which they have to enter service being only Rs. 50, and the maximum salary they can ever hope to obtain being only Rs. 200. The officers of this service are graduates of the Calcutta Medical College, and in point of attainment are not much inferior to the officers of the superior service who come out from England. There are few even among the latter who can hold their own against men like Doctors Jagabandhu Bose, Surjya Kumar Survadikari and Dayal Chandra Shom. But able and deserving as they are, the Assistant Surgeons are left to pine on mere pittances in places where they get no private practice.

It is true Indian medical students have the privilege of studying medicine in England and competing at the examination which is held in that country for selecting men for the superior service in India. But the Secretary of State can at his option refuse to give employment to such Indian candidates, even if they are successful at the examination. In fact, the prospects of the medical service are the gloomiest for the Indians. The writer would therefore suggest that the higher service be divided into two branches—the Civil and the Military—and some posts in each reserved for competent officers in the lower service. A division of the service is suggested, because frequent transfers from the Civil to the Military Department seriously interfere with an officer's gaining such special experience of particular diseases as is so essential a qualification in a medical man. If Government is not disposed to listen to this proposal, it should, at any rate, increase the pay of the Subordinate Medical Service.

SAHACHAR,

38. The same paper congratulates Mr. Risley on the satisfactory financial condition of the Government of Bengal as The Financial Statement of the disclosed in the last Financial Statement. Sir Alexander Mackenzie and his Financial Secretary are

to be thanked for the resolution they have taken to spend largely on the construction of some public buildings in the course of the ensuing year. As regards the educational expenditure, the Lieutenant-Governor admits that it ought to be increased, and says that a little increase has been already provided for in the budget. In view of the satisfactory financial condition of the Bengal Government, the writer would suggest the creation of some scholarships to be awarded on the results of the B. A. examination, and the grant of some money in aid of Dr. Mohendralal Sircar's Indian Association for the cultivation of Science, for which Sir Charles Elliott professed great sympathy, but to which he gave no pecuniary help.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
April 11th, 1896.

39. Referring to the memorial of the Musalmans of Satkania in the Chittagong district against the proposed destruction of a mosque in that place, the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 11th April writes as follows:—

The proposed destruction of a mosque in Chittagong town. The Commissioner of Chittagong has refused to grant the prayer of the memorialists. We understand that the mosque is going to be destroyed simply for the purpose of giving the Munsif Courts the benefit of a view of the river.

The mosque stands at a distance of 30 feet from the court compound, and there is space on both sides of the mosque through which the river is accessible. The mosque, therefore, is not certainly going to be acquired for the purpose of making a road. It is irresponsible and foolish officials who create dangers for the Government. Has Mr. Caspersz, the District Judge, forgotten all about the Sambazar riot? Has he forgotten how Sir John Lambert fared on that occasion?

40. A correspondent of the *Som Prakash* of the 13th April complains that, owing to the paucity of peons in the Santipur Post Office.

*SOM PRAKASH,*  
April 13th, 1896.

Post Office in the Nadia district, the delivery of letters and other postal communications is made very late. Formerly the first delivery was made between 9 and 10 A.M., and the second between 3 and 4 P.M.; but now the first delivery is not made earlier than 11 or 12 A.M., and the second before 5 or 6 P.M. There has been a heavy increase in the pressure of work in the Post Office, and the existing number of peons are not able to cope with it. Two additional post peons and one telegraph messenger should be appointed in this Post Office. The annual income of this Post Office is about ten thousand rupees, and it ought to bear the additional expenditure.

41. The Lieutenant-Governor, observes the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 14th April, has entitled himself to the thanks of the Bengal people by taking measures with a view of checking the progress of the cholera epidemic.

*DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR CHANDRIKA,*  
April 14th, 1896.

The Lieutenant-Governor in the cholera epidemic. Acting upon his order, the Calcutta Municipality has kept cholera medicines in stock in all police-stations and municipal offices for the registration of births and deaths, and the poor will get every possible help on application at the *thana*. The officers in charge of the local hospitals too have been instructed to make arrangements on a large scale for the treatment of cholera cases. The Lieutenant-Governor has ordered similar arrangements to be made in the mufassal also. It cannot be said how far the Lieutenant-Governor's order is being obeyed, but there is no doubt that His Honour is doing all that lies in his power to save the lives of his subjects.

### III.—LEGISLATIVE.

42. The *Charu Mihir* of the 7th April writes as follows:—

The question of water scarcity in the Bengal Council. We have been publishing reports of water scarcity in the Mymensingh district since the month of *Falgun*. The other day Mr. A. M. Bose and Babu

*CHARU MIHIR,*  
April 7th, 1896.

Surendranath Banerji put questions in the Bengal Council, drawing Government's attention to the prevalence of water scarcity in certain districts of the Presidency Division. But neither of them, not even Mr. Bose, whose birth-place is in East Bengal, referred to the East Bengal people's sufferings from this scarcity.

While on this subject, we cannot help drawing attention to the unsatisfactory condition of the law which empowers District Boards to spend so large a sum as five thousand rupees on the construction of roads, bridges, &c., without the Commissioner's sanction, but does not authorise them to spend even five rupees upon any scheme of water-supply without such sanction. The Mymensingh District Board submitted a proposal for the sinking of a number of wells to the Commissioner in December last. The scheme has come back only this month approved by the Commissioner in a modified form, but the season for constructing *pucca* wells is now nearly gone. Now that an amendment of the Local Self-Government law has been proposed, it is hoped that Mr. Bose and Babu Surendranath Banerji and Guruprasad Sen will get the law amended on this point. The people of East Bengal have scarcely yet realised that Babu Guruprasad Sen is their representative in the Council.

43. The *Hitavadi* of the 10th April writes as follows:—

Sir Alexander Mackenzie on Budget interpellation. No man in Bengal probably ever dreamt that any act of Sir Alexander Mackenzie would ever occasion pain to the people of Bengal. It is difficult for anybody who has seen His Honour's placid but dignified countenance, heard his kind words and witnessed his courteous bearing, to believe that the people of Bengal will be deprived of any of their rights under his administration. Since his accession to

*HITAVADI,*  
April 10th, 1896.

the Lieutenant-Governorship of this province, we have been forming all sorts of hope, and we little thought or suspected that, while engaged in regaling on nectar, we might be struck on our heart with a thunderbolt.

In last Saturday's meeting of the Bengal Council, the Lieutenant-Governor dashed to the ground our fondly cherished hopes. So long we had the right to make interpellations on questions connected with the Financial Statement; but Sir Alexander is about to deprive us of this right. He is trying to make that a matter of favour which we regard as a matter of right. We will not give up this right without a protest, and we will therefore humbly inform His Honour of our view of the matter, hoping he will give us a patient hearing.

His Honour stated, on the strength of a precedent furnished by the Viceregal Legislative Council, that interpellations on points connected with the Financial Statement were against rule, and had the only effect of causing waste of time. He added that, if any member had any information to get, he could best seek it in the course of the reading of the statement. But His Honour has not been able to show why the above precedent should apply to the conduct of business in the Bengal Council. The rules for the conduct of business in the two Councils are essentially different, as for instance, in regard to the reading of printed speeches, &c.

With our reading of the rules for the conduct of business, we fail to see why Sir Alexander should consider interpellations on points connected with the Financial Statement to be opposed to rule. Since the introduction of the interpellation system such questions have always been allowed, even a narrow-minded ruler like Sir Charles Elliott never thought of questioning this right. Who will then say why a liberal ruler like Sir Alexander Mackenzie is thinking of opposing this right? It must be our bad luck alone that this is so.

The information required cannot be obtained in the course of the reading of the statement, for the Official Member may omit from his statement all references to the points on which information is required. Interpellations on the points connected with the Financial Statement have the effect of removing popular misgivings and misconceptions by giving the Government an opportunity of explaining its policy. No questions are of such interest to the people as a body as those which relate to finance, and people believe that no interpellations are so productive of immediate good as these. Sir Alexander ought to have known this.

Since the rules confer upon the Lieutenant-Governor, in explicit terms, the right of disallowing any illegal or unreasonable question, it is not easy to see why interpellations on any particular subject should be prohibited altogether, lest they should be found to be objectionable. Nor is it true that interpellations have the effect of causing waste of time. Sir Charles Elliott made no objection to interpellations on that score, and Sir William Hunter has praised the system in a letter in the *Times* newspaper.

In conclusion, we would tell Sir Alexander only this—"Do you, O Master, set our hearts at rest. Do not dash to the ground, so early, by needless opposition, the hopes with which you generously inspired us. Exasperated by the rule of Sir Charles Elliott, we beg of you to give us peace: you are the Lord of Bengal. If you increase our uneasiness instead of pacifying our hearts, to whom should we go? Remove the alarm and uneasiness produced in the public mind by your words in the last meeting of the Council, and people will see that you are truly the Lord of Bengal."

#### 44. Referring to the Local Self-Government Act Amendment Bill, the

*Sulabh Dainik* of the 11th April observes that the  
The Local Self-Government Act  
Amendment Bill.

Government proposes to place a heavy burden of additional duties on the shoulders of the District Boards without giving them additional funds. It is a universal complaint that the road cess is not always spent for the purpose for which it was originally intended. If the Bill is passed, the road cess will be far more misspent than hitherto. In the road cess despatch it is clearly laid down that the road cess raised from a particular district will be spent for the good of that district, and that district alone. But is this done? In Jayrampur, a village in the Nadia district, Rs. 2,000 a year are raised as road cess, but the villagers are granted only Rs. 30 a year for the improvement of their roads. It is to be hoped that the authorities will carefully consider this matter before the Bill is passed.

45. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 12th April comments on the Provincial Budget and the interpellations in the Bengal Legislative Council:—

The Bengal Budget and the interpellations in the Bengal Legislative Council.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
April 12th, 1896.

The current Provincial Budget shows a surplus of 50 lakhs of rupees. The surplus is no doubt derived from the accumulation of the surplus of the Public Works cess, which annually amounts to Rs. 42,09,942. This being the case, it is quite clear that the Government ought to have annually spent a portion of this cess on the improvements of water-supply in the mufassal, or to have reduced the rate of the cess in order to give the cess-paying public some relief. This year water scarcity is being most keenly felt by the mufassal people, and many are dying of diseases contracted from the use of polluted water. Formerly the zamindars used to dig tanks and wells, but the Government has crippled their resources by imposing on them the Road and Public Works cesses. The Public Works cess is mostly spent by the Government on public buildings, while the Road cess has been handed over to the District Boards who spend it mostly in making roads. The Government is in duty bound to spend a portion of the Public Works cess on the improvement of water-supply in the mufassal. But it has been persistently shirking its responsibility and remains satisfied with imposing on the District Boards, with their limited resources, the duty of making provision for water-supply in the mufassal. It is indeed very strange that all these points did not suggest themselves to the native members of the Legislative Council, and they did nothing to induce the Government to spend a portion of the Public Works cess on the improvement of water-supply. So great are their indifference and ignorance that they raised the question of water scarcity in the Legislative Council long after the Government had come to know of the true state of affairs in this respect, and had issued a Circular directing District Boards to take steps to alleviate the sufferings of the people. The ignorance of these Hon'ble Members certainly led Government to view them with contempt. They are also forfeiting the respect and confidence of the public by betraying their ignorance and by relying for information on whatever appears in some irresponsible and ill-informed public prints. Their conduct is most likely to do great mischief to the people of this country.

Here is another instance of the ignorance of these native Members of the Bengal Legislative Council. Two Hon'ble Members interpellated on Mr. Bidwell's case long after the Government had taken notice of it, and administered a rebuke to Mr. Morshead, the offending Magistrate. The letters upon which these interpellations were based had come to the Government's notice long before they came to the notice of the Hon'ble Members in the columns of a native paper. These letters had long ago come to the notice of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, but that paper did not publish them under the by no means unwarrantable impression that such publication might offend the Government and prevent justice being done in the case. Such interpellations, as the above, do no good to the country, but are, on the other hand, calculated to make the Government attach small credit to them.

## IV.—NATIVE STATES.

46. The *Darussultanat and Urdu Guide* of the 9th April says that Mr. Plowden, the Resident at Hyderabad, takes great delight in expelling all well-wishers of the

Hyderabad Resident. State. He is anxious to dispense with the services of Nawab Sarwarjang.

## 47. The same paper says that, though the Nawab of Radhanpur in Bom-

The Radhanpur State in the Bombay Presidency. bay made a Will to the effect that during the minority of his son the State should be managed

by his wife, who is a Rajput Princess, with the help of a Council, the Bombay Government, in violation of the terms of the Will, has brought about the expulsion of all faithful and old adherants of the State, and has deputed a Civilian to assume charge of the State. Probably Government thinks that the late Nawab's wife, being a Hindu Princess, would mismanage the State of the minor Nawab who is a Musulman. But can a mother do anything to injure her own son, be he of her own religious persuasion or not?

DARUSSALTANAT  
AND URDU GUIDE,  
April 9th, 1896.

DARUSSALTANAT  
AND URDU GUIDE.

HITAVADI,  
April 10th, 1896.

48. The *Hitavadi* of the 10th April has the following:—

The trial of native princes. The reply given by the Secretary of State

to a question in Parliament, relating to the deposition of the Maharana of Jhalwar, discloses a very terrible state of things. It appears from the reply that, displeased with the Maharana, the Political Agent sent a report against him, accusing him of many things; that this report was supported by a Civilian officer who had not been long in Jhalwar; that on the strength of this report the Viceroy called upon the Maharana for an explanation; and that, upon considering the explanation submitted by the Maharana, His Excellency deposed him. Lord George Hamilton added that trials of native princes had always been conducted in that fashion, and that he had no wish to interfere with the established practice. His Lordship certainly deserves thanks for giving this plain and unvarnished description of the way in which native princes are tried in this country. But he has laid himself open to blame by not assigning any reason for his reluctance to interfere with a system which is so plainly objectionable. If he considers that system right, he should have plainly said so. But he had not the courage to make such a declaration.

The statement made by the Secretary of State has astonished the public both here and in England. This is what the *Daily Chronicle* says on the subject:—

"All we can say is that, if this is the way that justice is meted out to Indian princes, they are worse off than the beggars or dacoits, who are at least brought before a Magistrate and enabled to call witnesses in their defences."

The *Overland Mail*, which, by the way, is not a party paper, agrees with the *Chronicle* and writes as follows:—

"We are inclined to agree with the *Chronicle* that the answer of the Secretary of State on the deposition of the Maharaja of Jhalwar cannot be accounted as satisfactory. The inquiry which has resulted in this cavalier removal from a high position of a powerful Chief may, as Lord George Hamilton says, have been conducted according to the usual practice, but it would seem, on the face of it, to need revision in the interests both of policy and justice."

No efforts will now recover for the Maharana of Jhalwar his throne; for considerations of prestige do not permit Government at any time to own itself mistaken. It is very wrong that the accused native princes should be denied the right of defence and the benefit of doubts—privileges which are allowed even to the worst criminals. The native princes should no longer sit idle. They should combine to make a powerful agitation on the subject, and carry it, if necessary, to England.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

CHARU MIHIR,  
April 7th, 1896.

49. The *Charu Mihir* of the 7th April has the following:—

"The friction between the Government and the people of Bengal." In reply to the address of the Indian Association, Sir Alexander Mackenzie said that "he knew of no reason why there need ever be serious friction

between the Government and the people of Bengal." The people of Bengal have for a long time said the same thing, but few people have believed them. In fact the Government and the people have gone on distrusting each other, till they have created a most unnatural relation between themselves, in consequence of which the educated Bengali has lost the good-will of the authorities both in India and in England, and the officials have become more and more estranged from the subject people. This process of estrangement has gone on for the last twenty years, though the Bengalis have had absolutely no share in hastening it. It is not possible that a people who are overwhelmed with feelings of delight and gratitude to hear a single friendly word from a European official should cherish wicked sentiments against the Government. They are now and then found to become angry, but it is only the insolence of the Europeans that makes them so.

We do not believe that the five years of Sir Alexander Mackenzie's rule will bring about a political revolution in Bengal. He will have to follow in the footsteps of his predecessors, and to stick to the secret lines of policy which have been laid down for the guidance of the British Government in India. But if

those below him try to be as frank and friendly to the people as he is, the unhappy condition of the latter will certainly improve. The Lieutenant-Governor said, in the course of the reply referred to:—

"I intend to make no large professions — to sketch out no far-reaching policy. I shall be content if, at the end of my time here, I leave the province peaceful, content and prosperous, with clamour of party-cries died down, and relations of mutual confidence and esteem firmly established between the Administration and the people." Such frank trustfulness on the part of the authorities is just the thing now wanted in Bengal. Sir Alexander Mackenzie has within these two or three months filled the minds of his subjects with a new feeling. His object will surely be gained if his subordinates all over the country follow his example.

50. The *Sahachar* of the 8th April is anxious to know that there is no cause for anxiety in Sir Alexander Mackenzie's departure for Darjeeling under medical advice.

SAHACHAR,  
April 8th, 1896.

51. The Deputy Magistrates, observes the *Sulabh Dainik* of the 11th April, will be very sorry to see Mr. Cotton cut off his connection with the Secretariat. Mr. Cotton freely

SULABH DAINIK,  
April 11th, 1896.

mixed with the natives, and his sympathy with them marks almost every page of his book—*New India*. The writer does not attach any credit to the insinuation that Mr. Cotton, the friend of the Bengalis, has become a changed man since the time of Sir Charles Elliott. Mr. Cotton has always proved a kind office master to his subordinates, whose welfare he has never failed to promote. Sorry as the Bengalis are to part with Mr. Cotton, they are glad at his promotion. The Assam people are to be congratulated on the good fortune of soon getting for their ruler such a conscientious and kind-hearted man as Mr. Cotton. It would be a great blessing to the Indian people if all Civilians were like the author of *New India*.

52. The *Hindi Bangavasi* of the 13th April has the following:—

The indigo planters and the High-handedness on the part of the indigo Bethia Raj. planters of Bihar is making the poor raiyats in that division homeless and the zamindars poor. The raiyats of the Bethia Raj have been long persecuted by the indigo planters; and now the planters have directed their attention to the Ramnagar State. Their ill-treatment of the people of Bethia has struck such terror into the minds of the people of Ramnagar that they in a body think of leaving their homes and taking refuge in Nepal. The zamindars have not yet made up their minds as to what should be done. Almost all their landed property has been wasted by the indigo planters. These planters have also managed to divide the Raj family by internal dissensions. It is they again who brought about the appointment of an English Manager to the State, who is lording it over the people. The Raj family is now entirely at the mercy of this officer. Raja Mohan Bikran Singh is living the life of a wandering vagabond.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
April 13th, 1896.

#### URIYA PAPERS.

53. The *Uriya and Navasamvud* of the 19th February bears testimony to the vigilance and energy of the Vice-Chairman of the Balasore Municipality, who was seen to inspect the condition of the roads, urinals and latrines in the Balasore Municipality constantly during the recent outbreak of cholera in that town.

URIYA AND NAVASAM-  
VUD,  
Feb. 19th, 1896.

54. The *Samvadvahika* of the 27th February is informed that there will be soon a general scarcity of drinking water in the interior of the Balasore district, as the last rainfall in that district was scanty, and as the water of many tanks had been utilised in watering paddy in last October. The agricultural population of that district are therefore anxiously waiting for a seasonable shower of rain.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,  
Feb. 27th, 1896.

55. The *Utkal Dipika* of the 22nd February exhorts the natives of Orissa to encourage cotton goods manufactured in India and discourage those that are imported from foreign countries.

UTKAL DIPAKA.  
Feb. 22nd, 1896.

56. The same paper approves of the Resolution of Government on the subject of throwing dead bodies into rivers, and observes that the Resolution has been drawn up in a

UTKAL DIPAKA.

wise and prudent spirit by respecting certain practices and prejudices of the Hindus.

UTKAL DIPAK,  
Feb 22nd, 1896.

57. The same paper is sorry to notice that a large number of pilgrims who visit Jajpur in the Cuttack district do not find lodging-houses to live in, and are therefore compelled to pass their days and nights under trees and in open meadows, much to the detriment of their health. The writer observes that this is a result of the introduction of the Puri Lodging-House Act into Jajpur, where only a limited number of licensed lodging-houses exists.

UTKAL DIPAK.

58. The same paper points out that the *Bahil Lakhirajdars* (owners of revenue-free estates) in Orissa are passing their days unhappily, because they are in constant dread of settlement officers, who may, they think, assess their lands any day. Apart from this general apprehension, they have two particular grounds of complaint, which the writer thinks should engage the immediate attention of Government. They are the following:—

- (1) Excess lands in their revenue-free estates are proposed to be assessed and taxed;
- (2) Tenancy right is proposed to be conferred on the tenants of the proprietors of revenue-free estates, whether those tenants pay in cash or kind.

The excess land is, it is said, due to the incorrect measurements of the past settlement, but when the present Settlement Officers make a certain allowance for errors of measurement, it cannot be said that the officers engaged in measurements in the past settlement were really so wrong as they are represented to be. The writer has found by examination that the chain of the present settlement that forms the standard of measurement is less than the *padika* (the rod) of the last settlement by one *jab*. Hence arises the theory of excess land, under cover of which the owners of revenue-free estates are going to be assessed and taxed. During a long interval of 60 years that passed between the past and the present settlement, various causes contributed towards certain visible changes, either in the area or in the appearance of the revenue-free lands in Orissa, resulting either in increase or decrease of such lands as determined by the circumstances attending each particular case, and when Government is not prepared to make up the loss in cases in which the areas of such lands have diminished, it is not understood why it should come forward to assess and tax excess lands where such have been found to exist in the class of lands styled revenue-free. Besides, the writer draws the attention of the authorities to that ruling of the Hight Court in which the Honourable Judges have ruled that when excess lands are found within prescribed limits or boundaries, no claim for revenue or additional revenue can in any way stand.

The *Bahili Lakhiraj* lands are to be treated as *nij-jote* lands of their owners, whose predecessors obtained them as a gift from donors either for some services performed, or for some continuing services, it being clearly understood that their maintenance, or the maintenance of their successors in interest, forming an important charge on the lands in question. It is therefore clearly unjust to create a right of tenancy in such lands in behalf of tenants whom the *lakhirajdar* was compelled to employ in cultivating them either through poverty or necessity. Considering that the *lakhirajdars* form the major portion of the rural gentry, and, as such, are respectable, gentle, loyal and influential, their claims should be treated in a liberal spirit, and no measure having the remotest tendency to sow seeds of discontent in their minds shculd in any way be adopted. If no tenancy right can be created in *nij-jote* or *khamar* lands of zamindars, it is not understood why such a right should be created in the *bahili* (revenue-free) lands of the *lakhirajdars*. Should it be contended that the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act, which has been extended, though partially, to Orissa, do not apply to such a case, it can be easily argued that the Tenancy Act was not primarily meant for Orissa, and the legislators who enacted it had not the peculiarities of Orissa in their mind. It is not necessary to have recourse to legislation. A simple notification, published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, stating that no tenancy right can be created in *lakhiraj* lands, will save the *lakhirajdars* from having their lands, the only means of

their subsistence, reduced in value on account of the creation of tenancy rights in them.

59. The *Samvadavahika* of the 27th February complains that the villages situated in the Khejuri, Armala and Makhara parganas of the Balasore district are in constant dread of man-eating tigers, to whom the adjoining

reserved forests of Nilgiri have afforded safe and secure retreats. As these tigers have already killed many cattle and men, it is necessary that the authorities should look to the protection of the people and their belongings in those parts of the Balasore district.

Man-eaters in the Balasore district. Fever mortality in the Cuttack district. 60. The *Utkaldipika* of the 29th February notes mortality due to fever in the Jagatsingpur thana of the Cuttack district.

SAMVADVAHika,  
Feb. 27th, 1896.

UTKAL DIPiKA,  
Feb. 29th, 1896.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

*The 18th April 1896.*

